

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title as follows:

DISK CARTRIDGE WHICH ACCOMMODATES AN INFORMATION-RECORDING
DISK

Please replace paragraphs [0018] - [0021] with the following rewritten paragraphs:

[0018] As shown in Figs. 1B and 1C, the bridges 21, 31 are formed so that the bridge 21 is arranged in an overlapped manner at the outside of the bridge 31 in the state in which the disk cartridge 1 is closed. That is, the bridge 21 and the bridge 31 are provided on the upper case 2 and the lowercase 3 at such positions that the outer surface of the bridge 31 is overlapped with the inner surface of the bridge 21. The inner surface and the outer surface are formed to have an identical angle of inclination. Accordingly, the disk cartridge 1 can be opened/closed without causing any interference between the bridge 21 and the bridge 31. As shown in ~~Fig. 2,~~ Figs. 2A-2B, the bridges 21, 31 are formed to be thinner than the thicknesses of the upper case 2 and the lowercase 3 respectively. As shown in Fig. 1A, flat sections 63, which extend in the direction perpendicular to the central plane AX, are formed at the joining portion between the bridge 21 and the upper case 2 and at the joining portion between the bridge 31 and the lowercase 3.

[0019] Next, an explanation will be made about an opening/closing mechanism of the disk cartridge 1 with reference to ~~Figs. 2 and 3.~~ Figs. 2A-2B and 3A-3D. As shown in Fig. 2A, fastening sections 23 are provided at two positions on the outer circumference of the upper case 2 in the vicinity of the bridge 21 so that the fastening sections 23 are symmetrical in relation to the plane AX, that is, the fastening sections 23 are symmetrical to a line which passes through the center X of the disk cartridge 1 and a center of the hinge 7. As shown in Fig. 2B, locking elastic tabs 33 are provided at two positions on the outer circumference of the lowercase 3 in the vicinity of the bridge 31 so that the locking elastic tabs 33 are

symmetrical in relation to the plane AX. The locking elastic tabs 33 are formed at such positions that they are engaged with the fastening sections 23 when the upper case 2 and the lowercase 3 are overlapped with each other by the aid of the hinge. When the engaging sections are provided at the two positions, then the upper case 2 and the lowercase 3 are reliably fixed, and the disk cartridge is more effectively prevented from any erroneous opening which would be otherwise caused when any impact or shock is applied from the outside. It is enough that the engaging sections are formed on the same plane as the contour surface of the disk cartridge 1, or the engaging sections are formed inside the contour surface.

[0020] As shown in ~~Fig. 3~~, Figs. 3A-3D, the fastening section 23 is an arm like a cantilever spring extending along the outer circumference of the upper case 2. A hole 23' is formed through the arm. The locking elastic tab 33 is also an arm like a cantilever spring extending along the outer circumference of the lowercase 3. A projection 33', which is fitted to the hole 23', is formed at the tip of the arm. When the upper case 2 and the lowercase 3 are overlapped with each other by the aid of the hinge, i.e., in the state in which the disk cartridge 1 is closed, the projection 33' of the locking elastic tab 33 is fitted to the hole 23' of the fastening section 23 as shown in Figs. 3A and 3C. Accordingly, the closed state of the disk cartridge 1 is maintained. On the other hand, as shown in Figs. 3B and 3D, when the disk cartridge 1 is opened, the locking elastic tab 33 is pressed in the direction of the arrow AR3. Accordingly, the elastic tab 33 is elastically deformed about the support point of the base portion, and the projection 33' is disengaged from the hole 23' of the fastening section 23. Accordingly, the upper case 2 and the lowercase 3 are released from the engagement. The projection 33' and the fastening section 23 are machined to have tapered configurations so that the portions, which firstly make the contact with each other, are spread toward the outer surfaces of the cases respectively. Accordingly, when the disk cartridge 1 is closed, the projection 33' slides on the inner wall of the fastening section 23, making it easy to

fit the projection 33' to the hole 23'. Once the projection 33' is fitted to the hole 23', the projection 33' cannot be disengaged from the hole 23' unless the elastic tab 33 is urged as shown in Fig. 3B. In this state, the upper arm and the lower arm are locked to one another.

Accommodation/Removal of Disk in/from Disk Cartridge

[0021] Next, an explanation will be made with reference to ~~Figs. 4 and 5~~ Figs. 4A-4B and 5A-5C about the accommodation and the removal of the disk 5 in/from the disk cartridge 1.

Fig. 4A shows a situation to accommodate the disk 5 in a state in which the upper case 2 and the lowercase 3 of the disk cartridge 1 are open. The disk 5 having a stack-ring 57 which defines an unrecordable area 55 is placed on the lowercase 3 (arrow AR4) while the outer circumferential edge of the disk 5 is guided by the bridge 31 which is formed on the lowercase 3 and inner wall portions of ribs 39 on which the locking elastic tabs 33 and other components are formed. Subsequently, the upper case 2 is overlapped on the lowercase 3 while rotating the upper case 2 in the direction of the arrow AR4' about the rotary shaft of the hinge 7. As described above, when the projections 33' of the locking elastic tabs 33 of the lowercase 3 are engaged with the holes 23' of the fastening sections 23 of the upper case 2, the disk cartridge 1 is in the closed state. Accordingly, as shown in Fig. 4B, the disk 5 is accommodated in the disk cartridge 1. In the closed state, the stack-ring 57 is exposed through the openings 20 and 30, since the openings 20 and 30 have the semicircular portions each of which has a larger diameter than that of the stack-ring 57 (as shown in Fig. 1A).